

# **ACORN Members Denounce Bush's Budget**

<http://www.knowledgeplex.org/news/73107.html?p=1>

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On Monday, February 7, when President Bush released his FY 2006 Budget Proposal low and moderate income people directly impacted by proposed cuts spoke out. ACORN Members from 75 cities across the United States expressed their opposition to the cuts that would disproportionately affect low-income people.

According to the National Priorities Project under the President's budget, "discretionary spending would increase overall by 2 percent. Within that increase, Pentagon spending would increase by 5 percent (\$19 billion), homeland security by 3 percent (\$1 billion), and all other federally-funded services would be cut by 1 percent, before taking inflation into account." The Department of Defense increase mentioned does not even include funding for the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan.

For example, dramatic cuts to HUD programs were also announced making affordable housing opportunities in our communities even more limited. Almost 40 percent of funding to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program would be cut under the proposed budget.

CDBG funds are earmarked to improve the living conditions in urban neighborhoods all over the country. Cities use the money to provide adequate affordable housing for their residents, construct neighborhood clinics and centers and job training and creation programs. "Bush's proposed budget belies his statement on values, if you're cutting off services to the most vulnerable the budget is anti-family, anti-community and un-humanitarian. It's wrong," said Gloria Swieringa, Co-Chair of the Maryland Chapter of ACORN.

ACORN National President Maude Hurd added, "Why is Bush spending so much money on Iraq and Mars when low and moderate-income communities are suffering here in the United States?"

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ACORN is the nation's largest community organization of low- and moderate-income families, with over 175,000 member families organized into 800 neighborhood chapters in 80 cities across the country. Since 1970 ACORN has taken action and won victories on issues of concern to our members. Our priorities include: better housing for first time homebuyers and tenants, living wages for low-wage workers, more investment in our communities from banks and governments, and better public schools. We achieve these goals by building community organizations that have the power to win changes -- through direct action, negotiation, legislation, and voter participation. ACORN is an acronym, and each letter should be capitalized. ACORN stands for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now.

ACORN's website is at <http://www.acorn.org>. To receive updates on ACORN's work every two weeks go to <http://acorn.org/getinvolved>

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The National Priorities Project (NPP) provides citizens and community groups with tools to make federal policies more understandable and just. It does so in part by calculating federal spending on the state and city level so that people know how their tax dollars are

being spent. Tables and analysis of the FY 06 federal budget are available on our website at <http://www.nationalpriorities.org>.